Lt. Governor Becky Skillman's Remarks at the Groundbreaking Ceremony of Dallara's Plant in Speedway November 16, 2010

***NOTE: Lt. Governor Becky Skillman arrived at the groundbreaking in a two-seater Indy Car. Dallara, an Italian manufacturer, will build the new chassis for the Indy Racing League.

Now I truly understand the phrase "making a grand entrance." As a Hoosier, a car enthusiast and someone with a need for speed - this celebration is near and dear to my heart.

It is great to be here with so many partners in progress on such exciting day for Speedway, Indianapolis, and State of Indiana.

I speak on behalf of the Governor, myself and all Hoosier as I say how proud we are that the next generation of Indy cars will be designed and built right here in Speedway.

Many thanks are in order. As with most things in life, we are successful due to the strength of our relationships and partnerships. This project showcases the efforts of many partners. We thank the Town of Speedway and the Speedway Redevelopment Commission for their vision and for capitalizing on the motorsports industry, one of our state's greatest strengths.

The state was proud to be a partner in this project. Again it was collaboration between the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (Rollie Helmling, motorsports initiative) and our Office of Community and Rural Affairs that provided funding to the Town of Speedway to support this new investment.

And then there's Dallara, a loyal partner of the Indy Racing League for past 12 years and a high profile, innovative racing company. And they're locating the company's only operation outside Parma, Italy, right here in Speedway.

We thank Dallara for their investment in our state and in our people. With 80 new jobs, many Hoosiers will now become a part of the Dallara family.

And we're delighted with the addition of the Indy Racing Experience to the facility. This will give fans opportunity to witness firsthand what it's like to be part of the IndyCar series.

The state has an ongoing commitment to grow the motorsports industry and IndyCar series. You may have noticed that we treat every industry as an economic development tool for the state.

And it's working. The numbers form the US Bureau of Labor Statistics; show Indiana as a leader in private sector job growth in 2010. We have created 7 percent of the country's job growth this year and as you know, we have only 2 percent of the country's population.

The companies that expand, consolidated, or start in Indiana are diverse. But they are growing and thriving because of the hard work of Hoosiers: from the workforce, to local leaders, to the state level. And that keeps Indiana moving forward, even during tough economic times. Combine all these dynamics and partnerships together, and companies like Dallara take notice and make investments here. That's what we celebrate today.